Rivals kill two brothers in Waziristan

By Our Correspondent

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Rivals shot dead two brothers in Sarvekai tehsil here on Saturday, the police said. The incident reportedly stemmed from a minor dispute over grazing of goats, which escalated into a deadly confrontation.

Upper South Waziristan district police officer Arshad Khan said preliminary information indicated that the parties had a minor disagreement the previous day, but the rival group opened fire in a fit of anger, killing the brothers, identified as Ahmed Gul and Mujeeb, on the spot.

He said the assailants fled the scene immediately after the shooting. A search operation has been launched in the area to apprehend the culprits. He added that a case under sections 302, 148 and 149 of Pakistan Penal Code had been registered on the complaint of the deceased's relatives.

Police officials said the bodies were shifted to a nearby hospital for postmortem, after which they were handed over to their family.

Local residents expressed grief and shock over the incident and urged the authorities to arrest the suspected killers at the earliest.

Gomal University expels students for indiscipline

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Gomal University has expelled several students after a series of serious campus unrest incidents, according to an official handout issued by the varsity administration.

The statement said that on various dates in October, students along with external accomplices stormed the registrar's office, assaulted a female student, attempted to forcefully enter the vice-chancellor's office, attacked a police guard, and showed deliberate disrespect during the national anthem at an event. Another reported incident involved anti-Pakistan slogans during a cricket match screening.

A fact-finding committee was formed to investigate the incidents, after which the case was referred to the university's disciplinary committee. The accused students were issued show-cause notices and given the opportunity to present their defence. Their replies were found unsatisfactory.

Under university discipline rules, the administration expelled the involved students and cancelled their admissions. Hostel rooms were vacated and sealed. Those expelled include Aman Burki, Irfanullah, Nangyal Bittani, Ehsan Mehsud, and Tariq Bittani, while former student Amir Bittani has been banned from campus for five years. The university clarified that expelled students cannot seek admission in any other institution. — Correspondent

'Bike thief' killed in Swat encounter

SWAT: A wanted motorcycle thief was killed in an exchange of fire with the police in the Kanju area of Swat on Friday evening, officials said.

Earlier in the day, the suspect attempted to steal a motorcycle in the jurisdiction of Kanju police station. A rider squad immediately intercepted him, but the accused opened fire and managed to flee.

An FIR of the incident was subsequently registered. The suspect was later identified as Faizan, a resident of Rahimabad, who was wanted in several criminal cases. A special police team was formed to ensure his arrest. Acting on intelligence reports, the team traced him near the Kanju Bypass late in the evening.

Police said that upon spotting the team, the outlaw again opened indiscriminate fire. A bullet struck a constable but was miraculously stopped by the mobile phone inside his jacket pocket, saving his life.

The police retaliated in self-defence, and the suspect was killed in the ensuing gun battle.

Officials confirmed that Faizan had a criminal history involving 15 FIRs, including charges of murder, attempted murder, robberies, motorcycle theft, narcotics possession, assault on police personnel, assault on a woman, and criminal intimidation.— Correspondent

WOMEN stand next to vehicles parked at Peshawar Services Club during the 16th Vintage and Classic Cars Rally, organised by the KP Culture and Tourism Authority and Land Rover Club on Saturday. — White Star

CM accuses Centre of delaying key energy projects in KP

Inaugurates 40.8MW Koto hydropower project in Dir

By Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mohammad Sohail Afridi on Saturday claimed that several at he federal government's alleged failure to issue no objection certificates and because of what he described as a "complicated mechanism".

He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the 40.8MW Koto Hydropower Project here. The project has been completed at a cost of Rs21.7 billion.

The event was attended by current and former Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf MNAs and MPAs from Lower and Upper Dir, and Bajaur, officials of the district administration, Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organisation and party workers.

Mr Afridi said the centre had to pay Rs3 trillion to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in net hydel profit. "If we get this sum, we will make more development here," he remarked.

Earlier, power and energy secretary Mohammad Zubair Khan briefed the participants about the project, saying it was expected to generate an annual profit of Rs2.4 billion. He added besides Koto, the Karora and Jabori hydropower projects would also be inaugurated soon, bringing a combined Rs4.4 billion into the national exchequer.

Sohail Afridi said KP had immense potential for generating cheap electricity, adding that providing affordable power to future generations had been part of the PTI founder Imran Khan's vision.

The chief minister alleged that "terrorism had been imposed" on KP, badly affecting the province's economy. He claimed the province had been turned into a "laboratory for experiments". "Whenever we speak about peace and negotiations, we are linked with someone else," he remarked.

Discussing the energy sector, he said the provincial government was laying a 120km-long transmission line which, according to him, would directly benefit consumers.

The chief minister said that the transmission line once completed would enable the transmission of electricity generated from 11 local power stations to industries. "The power produced by local hydropower plants will be supplied to industries at concessional rates, as industrial expansion is essential for reducing unemployment."

Later, addressing a large public gathering at the Timergara Rest House ground, the chief minister criticised state institutions, claiming that shortly after a jirga at the provincial assembly, "our guests were whisked away", which he said violated Pakhtun traditions. He added that neither the PTI founder nor his supporters could be intimidated through pressure or threats.

He said he was still not being allowed to meet his imprisoned leader despite court orders. Without naming anyone, he said: "Your bullets may run out, but our chests will not."

PTI provincial president and MNA Junaid Akbar Khan, MNA Mehboob Shah, Shahid Khattak, Malik Liaqat Ali, Malik Shafiullah and others also spoke at the event. Throughout the gathering, party workers repeatedly chanted slogans asking the chief minister to "move ahead, we are with you."

Although local lawmakers presented a lengthy list of development demands, the chief minister made no formal announcement during his speech.

Later, the MPAs told reporters that Mr Afridi had taken the list with him and would discuss it with them in detail.

In his fiery address, PTI provincial president Junaid Akbar told the federal government that any further constitutional amendments would "only increase people's resentment", adding that the state could not weaken PTI workers' loyalty or diminish their affection for Imran Khan.

A statement issued from the chief minister's secretariat in Peshawar stated that the Koto project had been completed at a total cost of Rs21.7 billion and was expected to generate 207 million units of electricity annually, bringing an estimated revenue of Rs2.4 billion per annum.

Besides, it said that Mr Afridi also inaugurated the 18.5km Tormang-Razgram Road, constructed at a cost of Rs1.5 billion.

Measles claims seven lives in Bajaur

By Anwarullah Khan

BAJAUR: Health officials on Saturday revealed that the measles infection had claimed the lives of seven children and infected 550 others during the recent outbreak in Bajaur.

In this season [winter] seven children have died and 550 others were infected by measles in Bajaur recently, said Dr Hayat Afridi, acting district health officer, while speaking to media during the inauguration ceremony of the 14-day anti- measles and rubella campaign.

Dr Hayat Afridi, who is also the medical superintendent (MS) of the district headquarters hospital Khar, told reporters that as per their investigation, the deceased and infected children were vaccinated against measles.

The recent measles outbreak overwhelmed Khar hospital, forcing staff to place three to four children on the same bed," the official disclosed. He urged parents to get their children vaccinated against measles to protect them from the deadly disease.

The inauguration ceremony of the massive anti- measles and rubella campaign, which would formally commence from November 17 and continue till November 30 was held at district headquarters hospital Khar.

Senior officials of the district administration, health department including Nawagi subdivision assistant commissioner Irshadul Haq and Dr Farman Khan attended the ceremony and highlighted the significance of the drive.

The ceremony was informed that a total of 224,273 children aged between six months and five years would be vaccinated against measles and rubella, saying 244,000 children up to five years would also receive polio drops during the campaign.

Officials said 219 mobile teams of health staff would participate in the drive, vaccinating children in community centres, guest houses, mosques, schools and other public places across the district.

Besides the mobile teams, the health officials noted that vaccination teams would also be stationed at all 44 health facilities across the district, also known as fixed vaccination centres.

The health department with the support of district administration has finalised all arrangements for the successful launch of the anti-measles and rubella campaign, crucial for children and their mothers," the officials added.

Assistant commissioner Irshadul Haq and Dr Hayat Afridi on the occasion urged local residents to support the campaign by bringing their children to vaccination centres to protect them from infections once and forever. They also asked the elders, political and religious leaders to make the campaign a success by convincing the community for the drive.

Two booked for illegally hunting Kashmir Markhor in Chitral

By Our Correspondent

CHITRAL: The wildlife department booked two persons for their involvement in illegal hunting of protected Kashmir Markhor, and recovered various parts of the hunted animal, including its distinctive spiralled horns, during a raid on their house in the Broze village of Lower Chitral district on Saturday.

The raid was conducted following reports of the community watchers that the poachers had illegally targeted the endangered species within the limits of Gahiret-Golen conservancy.

The community watchers – Mohammad Ghafar and Rehmat Qayum – were on their routine duty at Broze Gol when the alleged poachers – Sibghatullah, Abdul Ghani and an unknown person of Broze Domun village – were found carrying on their back the carcass of an adult markhor.

The poachers opened fire on the watchers and made good their escape in the darkness of night in the forest.

Divisional forest officer of Chitral wildlife division Farooq Nabi told *Dawn* that after obtaining search warrants, a raiding team was sent to the suspects' residence at Domun Broze.

He said the alleged poachers were not present in their houses, adding a case was registered against them under different sections of KP Wildlife & Biodiversity Act, 2015, and sections 34 and 506 of Pakistan Penal Code in the city police station.

Mr Nabi said: "Illegal hunting within conservancies threatens conservation efforts and the entire ecosystem." He said the community conservation model had proved to be exceptionally successful where each and every community member acted as saviour of wildlife.

An official of the city police station told *Dawn* that suspects had obtained pre-arrest bail from a local court.

Withdrawal of KP's plea against action in aid verdict makes no difference

Lawyer says Centre is main appellant in the case pending with apex court

By Waseem Ahmad Shah

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's decision to withdraw its appeal related to the action in aid of civil power law from the Supreme Court will not affect the fate of the matter as the federal government is the main appellant in the pending case, according to lawyers.

Senior advocate Shabbir Hussain Gigyani, whose petitions against the action in aid law were accepted by the Peshawar High Court in 2019, told *Dawn* that a total of six leave to appeal petitions were filed in the Supreme Court, including four by the federal government and two by the KP government.

"Even if the KP government implements its decision to withdraw its plea against the high court's decision from the apex court, those filed by the federal government will remain in the field," he said.

Mr Gigyani said that no noteworthy proceedings had taken place in the matter since the high court's judgement was suspended by the apex court in 2019.

The provincial cabinet decided, in a meeting on Nov 14, to implement a resolution unanimously passed by the provincial assembly on Sept 8, 2025, recommending that the provincial government withdraw its appeal filed against the 2019 verdict of the PHC regarding the action in aid of civil power law.

"This House recommends that the provincial government declare the implementation of the law in KP and the merged districts to be against basic rights and withdraw its appeal from the Supreme Court," the resolution read.

Following the judgement delivered by the high court on Oct 17, 2017, two civil petitions for leave to appeal (CPLAs) were filed on behalf of the federal law and justice secretary and two others by the federal government through the interior secretary.

Similarly, the KP government had challenged the verdict through two CPLAs.

A Supreme Court bench comprising then Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa, Justice Qazi Mohammad Amin Ahmad and Justice Aminuddin Khan (present chief justice of the Federal Constitutional Court) had suspended the high court's decisionon Oct 24, 2019. It granted leave to appeal in those cases and directed the fixing of those petitions before a larger bench.

Since then, the matter has been pending with the apex court.

In the appeal, the government insisted that petitions before the Peshawar High Court were not maintainable asunder Section 3 of Article 245 of the Constitution, a high court couldn't exercise any jurisdiction under Article 199 in relation to any area in which the armed forces were, for the time being, acting in aid of civil power.

A Peshawar High Court bench, consisting of then Chief Justice Waqar Ahmad Seth and Justice Musarrat Hilali (now SC judge), had accepted several petitions, including that of Mr Gigyani, declaring unconstitutional five laws, including the KP Continuation of Laws in erstwhile Pata Act, 2018, the KP Continuation of Laws in erstwhile Fata Act, 2019, the two regulations of 2011 called Action (in aid of Civil Power) Regulation for Fata and Pata, and the KP Action (in Aid of Civil Power) Ordinance, 2019.

It directed the home secretary to declare all internment centres of the province subjails under the law within 24 hours of receiving a copy of the judgement and asked the inspector general (prisons) to take their control in the next three days.

The IG (prisons) was told to release all internees, who were not charged in any case and a period of 90 days preventive detention for them had lapsed from the date of their arrest, and produce all those charged before the court of law duly established in the area.

Through the Constitution (Twenty-Fifth Amendment) Act, 2018, the former tribal areas were merged with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

While there was no constitutional protection to the existing laws in former tribal areas after merger, the KP government enacted the KP Continuation of Laws in Erstwhile Pata Act, 2018, in Dec 2018, which was assented by the governor on Jan 4, 2019, and the KP Continuation of Laws in Erstwhile Fata Act in April the same year.

Through those acts, all the laws, regulations, rules and notifications, including the Action (in aid of civil power) Regulation, 2011, applicable in former Fata and Pata, remained in force.

Advocate Gigyani first filed a petition challenging the said two acts, praying the court to declare as unconstitutional these acts as well as the internment centres established under the Action (in Aid of Civil Power) Regulation (AACPR) 2011 for Fata and Pata and to direct the government to handover all the internees to the respective courts of competent jurisdiction for their trial as per law.

During pendency of the said petition, the then provincial government of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) in a clandestine manner promulgated on Aug 5, 2019, the controversial ordinance, Action (in Aid of Civil Power) Ordinance through which the scope of the powers assigned to the government and armed forces acting in aid of civil power were extended to entire province while earlier the same were available to them in Fata and Pata.

Advocate Gigyani filed another petition, challenging the controversial ordinance.

The high court later declared all those laws unconstitutional.

"The Action (in Aid of Civil Power) Regulations were extensively used as a legal cover for arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances," it ruled.

The PHC pointed out that the law gave sweeping powers to members of the armed forces, including the power to detain people without charge or trial on a number of vaguely defined grounds where it appears that such internment would be expedient for peace.

"Individuals may be detained for an unspecified period without any right to be brought before a court of law or to challenge the lawfulness of detention before a court," the high court ruled.